

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaving a fusion protein, which is insoluble in a medium into which a *Caulobacter* secretes the fusion protein, into ~~including~~ a first component which comprises ~~all or part of a *Caulobacter crescentus* S-layer protein fragment incapable of adhesion to a *Caulobacter crescentus* cell surface but~~ including a ~~*Caulobacter* C-terminal~~ secretion signal, and a second component heterologous to *Caulobacter*, the fusion protein containing at least one aspartate-proline dipeptide at a site of cleavage, wherein the method comprises combining the fusion protein with an acid solution of a strength insufficient to solubilize the fusion protein for a time sufficient for cleavage of the fusion protein at said ~~aspartate-proline dipeptide~~ site of cleavage, and wherein the first component remains insoluble in said acid solution after cleavage.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~a aspartate-proline dipeptide is situated between the first and second components or adjacent a junction between the first and second components~~ the second component becomes soluble in said acid solution after cleavage.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the acid solution has a pH of from about 1.5 to about 2.5

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the acid solution has a pH of about 1.65 to about 2.35.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is carried out at a temperature in the range of about 30°C to about 50°C.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises separating products cleaved from the fusion protein.

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7-8. (Cancelled)